

AC 44141(3) SEAFORD

SEAFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED - 31st DECEMBER, 1954

Public Health Department,  
Lewes House,  
LEWES.

August, 1955



Public Health Department,

Lewes House,

LEWES.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Seaford Public Health Committee.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the state of public health and on the sanitary circumstances of Seaford for the year 1954.

The estimated population of Seaford for the year under review was 10,500 and the highest so far recorded. It showed an increase of 140 over that of the previous year.

The population of this country in 1841 contained 4.4% of persons aged 65 years and over. This was increased to 7.4% in 1931 and a further increase was made in 1951 up to 10.9%.

Statisticians have assumed (and it can be no more than an assumption) that the percentage of those aged 65 years and over will be in the order of 16 in 1970. At the present time there is about 1 person of 65 years or over for 10 of the population. In 1970 for every ten there will be 1.6. This is important from Seaford's point of view as the town has been and still is one of the favourite places of residence for retired people who come from elsewhere.

The trend of the ageing of the population was slow from 1841 to 1921, thereafter there was a moderate acceleration of this process from 1921 to 1931 when the percentage of those of 65 years and over was 6.0 and 7.4 respectively. There was then a comparatively rapid ageing from 1931 to 1951.

Most of the thinking public are very well aware of the implications of an ageing population whereby more and more old people are having and will have economic and other repercussions on the population at large. Two government committees have been appointed to consider the matter of employment of older persons and the economic and social problems of old age.

Up to now, the increasing number of old people has not become a problem of some considerable magnitude as it will do in the future. Nevertheless, the problem is on its way as it has been for some time.





It is now thought by responsible persons that serious consideration should be given as the matters of employment and of the financial aspect are more complex than would appear at first sight.

There will be changes at other ages along with the ageing population. For instance the proportion of the population under the age of 15 years in 1901 was 32.4% and in 1931 it was 23.8%. In 1951 this fell to 22.3%. It is assumed that in 1970 the percentage will be 20%. The proportion of those under 15 years in Seaford has been less than the percentages quoted above, and this has been the case for many years.

Individuals at all ages are important to themselves, their families, friends and as units of the population whether working as producers or in other necessary spheres, but from the economic standpoint the amount of available individuals of working ages is the most important. The working age group 15 to 64 years formed 68.9% of the total population in 1931. This fell to 66.8% in 1951. It is assumed that this will comprise 65.4% in 1970. The younger portion of the group 15 to 64 years which in 1951 was 63.9% of the total of the whole will. It is assumed, fall to 61.2% in 1970.

There have been several causes relating to the ageing of the population. There has been a decline in the number of births in recent years. There has also been a decline in the number of infants who died although this by no means offsets the decline of the number of births, but it has been possible for more infants to grow up to older ages. In the 1901-10 period 68 out of 100 male babies would survive to the age of 40 years. According to the 1931 mortality, 81 would survive and this was improved upon by 93 survivors in 1953.

In 1901 out of 100 men aged 65 years only 27 could be expected to live to 80 years; in 1953 the number would be 33. Although mortality at older ages has improved it has not been on the same scale as at younger ages.

The great killers of bygone years such as cholera, typhoid, small pox and diphtheria etc. have been brought under control and practically vanquished for ever.



People are now more able to resist infection through a higher standard of living and advances in medicine have been most successful in combating causes of early death. Improved hygiene has greatly reduced such murrains as infantile diarrhoea, typhoid and other intestinal diseases to such comparatively small proportions that the once heavy toll of deaths has been averted. Pneumonia and tuberculosis have been effectively combated by the new anti-biotics and sulpha drugs and surgery has been made safer through their uses.

The hazards of old age, heart failure, cerebral haemorrhage and cancer, are still with us however, and the progress in their prevention has been much less rapid than that attained in other maladies.

Compared with a birth rate for England and Wales of 15.2 per 1,000 population for the year 1954 the birth rate for Seaford was 11.31. Neighbouring areas have larger birth rates as the proportion of young married people is larger in them than is the case in your town.


The comparable death rate for Seaford for 1954 was 10.71 as against a death rate of 11.50 per 1,000 for England and Wales for the same year.

For the sixth year in succession there have been no maternal deaths in Seaford and this is a high tribute to all those who care for Seaford mothers before delivery of the infants, during delivery and also for the care of the mothers after childbirth.

Two infants under one year of age died during the year and this gave an infantile mortality rate of 22.22 per 1,000 births. The causes of death were congenital malformation and asphyxia both of which gave the infants little chance of surviving. In the period 1945-49 there were 13 deaths of Seaford infants under one year of age and in 1950-54 this was reduced to eleven.

The causes of death in the general population of the town were headed by heart disease (71 deaths); vascular lesions of the nervous system (21 deaths) and cancer (19 deaths). This followed the usual pattern. The great majority of the deaths occurred in elderly people as the average age at death was 72 years. There was only one death due to pulmonary tuberculosis. In these days mortality due to tuberculosis presents a very different picture compared with twenty-five years ago when the mortality was comparatively heavy.





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Concerning infectious diseases the incidence was light. There was a total of only 29 cases notified during the year, 15 of which were of whooping cough; five were of pneumonia; four of scarlet fever; only two of measles; two of erysipelas and one of puerperal pyrexia. In 1953 no less than 420 cases of measles were notified. There were no deaths of any of the infectious diseases notified in 1954.

A rather high number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in the year under review. The total amounted to 13 but this gives a misleading impression since 11 of the cases came to reside in Seaford from other districts and already had the infection before they resided in the town. A small number of non-pulmonary cases, only two, were notified in 1954. It is true to say that owing to the energy of the Chest Physicians more cases of tuberculosis are being discovered nowadays and this is all to the good since treatment in many cases can begin early and cases can be segregated to prevent infection of others who may come in contact with them.

The sanitary circumstances of the town remained good. Much of the sanitary inspector's time was occupied in the matter of rehousing families. Most of the milk supplied to Seaford people was pasteurised and a small quantity was sterilised. These processes ensured that disease was not conveyed by the milk. Hygienic conditions at shops selling food were as usual of a high standard. No less than 107 inspections of houses were made for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts. Six houses were found to have defects and these were remedied by informal notices. Only in one case was a house rendered fit after the service of a formal notice.

In common with neighbouring seaside towns the beach and certain premises in the town area were invaded by large numbers of seaweed flies. After spraying the beaches with Dieldrin the pest was abated.

Another infestation took place during the year and that was of the Brown-tailed Moth caterpillars. Hedgerows containing the caterpillars were sprayed with a D.D.T. solution or were burned by a flame thrower. Both methods proved effective.

A total of 1,298 visits were made by your sanitary inspector in the course of his general duties.



In the curious weather we had during the year the highest totals of hours of sunshine were in April and May when there were 228 and 197 hours respectively. In July and August there were 174 hours and 193 hours. Despite the impression of having had a bad year as far as the weather was concerned the number of sunny days during the year was 266. The peculiar weather was not confined to Seaford alone as other south coast resorts had the same experience and indeed the whole country had more or less what was called a bad summer.

Summing up, the health of the inhabitants of Seaford was very satisfactory in 1954.

The discharge of practically raw sewage into the sea still remains unremedied. From hygienic and aesthetic points of view this should be attended to.

My thanks are due to members of the Health Committee for their help and encouragement during the year and to other officials for their help and courtesy.

I am, Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

G.M.DAVIDSON LOBBAN,  
M.B., Ch.B., D. P.H.

Medical Officer of Health





SECTION I

Statistics of the Area - 1954

Area (in acres)	4,274
Population (estimated)	10,500
Rateable Value (1st April, 1954)	£133,429
Sum represented by a penny rate	£540

Extracts from Vital Statistics

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>
Legitimate	44	43	87	
Illegitimate	-	3	<u>3</u> 90	8.57
<u>Deaths</u>	75	88	163	15.52
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth.	-	0	0	0.00
<u>Infantile Mortality</u>				<u>Rate per 1,000 Live Births</u>
(Deaths under 1 year of age)	0	2	2	22.22

POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population is 10,500.

The population and vital indices of Seaford for the past 12 years are as follows:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Vital Index</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Vital Index</u>
1943	4,822	97.84	1949	10,260	79.17
1944	5,231	117.74	1950	10,430	74.01
1945	6,450	137.50	1951	10,110	74.07
1946	8,334	175.82	1952	10,340	65.97
1947	8,951	140.77	1953	10,360	65.62
1948	9,730	111.30	1954	10,500	55.21

The estimated population figure of 10,500 recorded for mid-1954 shews an increase of 140 on the comparative figure for the previous year. As was also pointed out in last year's report, more deaths than births took place in the district during the year under review, and it would thus seem that the recorded increase is composed of the excess of immigrants into the area over the emigrants who left it. The vital index for the year has continued its steady downward trend, indicating that the yearly proportion of deaths to births is still increasing. At the present time it is indeed lucky for Seaford that the town offers such attractions to people outside the area that each year many new residents enter the district. It must, of course, be remembered that the fact



that so many of the new residents are retired, and therefore usually elderly persons, is an important factor bearing upon the low birth rate in the town. As the number of Council houses and moderately priced houses built by private enterprise increases in the town, it is to be hoped that a significant increase in the proportion of young married couples to the town's total population will occur and a consequent increase in the local birth rate result. This naturally, is rather a long term policy and it is hardly likely that the vital index will show any material increase for some years. In the meantime, it is pleasant to note that the building in the town is no longer restricted almost entirely to council houses and here and there throughout the district new privately built houses are making their appearance.

The vital index shewn in the table is arrived at by dividing the number of births during the year in the area under review by the number of deaths and multiplying the result by a hundred. The figure thus obtained is a measure of the population's biological condition and any such figure above a hundred shews that births in the area have more than compensated for the deaths which have taken place during the same period.

It is for the sixth year in succession that the vital index for Seaford has fallen below a hundred, indicating, as pointed out above, that the number of Seaford inhabitants who have died has exceeded the number of births to Seaford mothers.

#### Maternal Mortality

For the sixth year in succession no mother resident in Seaford has died in or in consequence of childbirth. Only two maternal deaths have occurred in the district during the past ten years, during which period 1151 births have taken place, the rate for the area per 1,000 live and still births during the ten years being 1.74.

#### Infantile Mortality

During the year 1954 two infants under one year of age died in Seaford. This represented an infantile mortality rate of 22.22 per 1,000 live births.

When the number of infantile deaths which occur each year is usually so small, it is only possible to assess whether or not these





deaths are decreasing by making comparison between longer periods. Comparison between the five-yearly periods 1945-1949 and 1950-1954 shows that during the first and these periods 18 infant deaths occurred in Seaford, and in the second period only 11 deaths were recorded. This indicates that a very considerable decrease has taken place within a period of ten years, and it is to be hoped that the reduction will be continued in the future.

#### Birth Rate

The crude birth rate for the year under review was 8.57 per 1,000 population. This rate represents a welcome increase on the rate of 8.11 for 1953. As the first halt in the steady decline which has taken place since 1944 it is perhaps an indication of a steadily increasing birth rate to be hoped for as more and more new houses of a type within the reach of young couples are built in the district.

The large number of elderly persons who come to live in Seaford when they retire from business naturally tends to make the birth rate artificially low for the population of the district as a whole and this effect can only be counteracted by presenting special inducements, such as moderately priced houses and flats, to bring numbers of young couples to live in the district. Such an inducement is in process of being provided in Seaford and this year's improvement in the birth rate, slight though it is, may be the first fruits of a larger harvest.

An area comparability factor of 1.32 is applicable to the birth rate in the town. This factor is supplied by the Registrar-General in order that a fair comparison may be made between the local birth rates of different districts. In this case its application gives an adjusted birth rate of 11.31. Even with this adjustment the rate for the district is little over two-thirds of the 1954 rate of 15.2 recorded for England and Wales.

#### Death Rate

The death rate for the year under review was 15.52 per 1,000 population, the death rate for England and Wales for the same period being 11.30 per 1,000 population. The reasons for the high rate in the district are no doubt the same as those mentioned in the section relating to the birth rate and discussed above.



An area comparability factor of 0.69 is applicable to the crude death rate of 15.52 per 1,000, and this gives an adjusted figure of 10.71 per 1,000 population, which is 0.59 less than the rate for England and Wales for the same period.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Heart disease	41	30	71
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	16	21
Cancer	9	10	19
Circulatory disease other than mentioned elsewhere	1	4	5
Accidents other than motor vehicle accidents	2	3	5
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	4
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Suicide	-	2	2
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-	1
Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	1	1
Diabetes	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
Congenital malformation.	-	1	1
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	15	22
	75	88	163

As occurs almost every year, the chief causes of death were heart disease, vascular lesions of the nervous system, and cancer.

The highest age at death was ..... 92 years  
The lowest age at death was ..... 15 minutes  
The average age at death was ..... 72 years

SPECIFIC CAUSES OF DEATH

Heart Disease and Diseases of the Circulatory System

Not far short of half the total number of deaths in the area during 1954 were due to heart disease. Most of these deaths took place





among elderly people and were due, briefly, to the heartwearing out after giving a lifetime of constant service. The large proportion of deaths due to heart disease is, paradoxically, a compliment to the medical profession in so far as the doctor's skill now wards off death in so many forms that the human body is given a fair chance to wear out naturally, rather than to be destroyed by violence or disease.

#### Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System

Vascular lesions of the nervous system include cerebral haemorrhage, cerebral embolism and thrombosis, and other lesions. A total of twenty-one deaths in Seaford were classified under this heading during 1954, five being males and sixteen females. This is a reduction of three on last year's total of twenty-four and of eleven on the previous year's total of thirty-two. Most of these deaths occurred amongst elderly persons.

#### Cancer.

Cancer is mainly a disease of those over middle age and it would be reasonable to expect, therefore, that the cancer death rate in Seaford would be high compared with that for the country as a whole, as the district has a disproportionately large number of elderly residents. It is gratifying to note, however, that the cancer death rate for the district is below that for England and Wales, being 1.81 per 1,000 population, compared with a figure of just over 2 per 1,000 for the whole country. The difference between the two figures is mainly caused by the very low death rate in Seaford due to cancer of the lung and bronchus, the rate being only very slightly over half that for the country as a whole. This satisfactory state of affairs is probably brought about, at least in part, by the extreme purity of the atmosphere in the town.



## SECTION II

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

#### Public Health Facilities of the Local Authority

During the period under review the Medical Officer of Health for Seaford also acted as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lewes, the Urban District of Hovehaven and the Rural District of Chailey.

One Sanitary Inspector carries out his particular duties in the Urban District of Seaford.

#### Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory established at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, has been of great assistance during the year.

The Laboratory has carried out for the Urban District, free of charge, the examination of sputum and throat and laryngeal swabs and has also undertaken the examination of milk. The service is extremely valuable both to your Medical Officer of Health and to the Medical Practitioners in the district. It is particularly useful in providing a certain means of discovering whether or not a person has been invaded by the infective organism causing tuberculosis and is also of great use in detecting any infective organisms in milk, ice-cream or foodstuffs generally.

#### Ambulance Facilities

The provision of the ambulance service is the responsibility of the East Sussex County Council, which houses one ambulance in the town. During 1954 this vehicle was available for the conveyance of both infectious and non-infectious cases and arrangements were in being for the disinfection of ambulance, bedding, clothing etc., after use for the transport of an infectious case. If a further call is received whilst the ambulance is out on duty, arrangements are in being for the call to be dealt with by other depots in the area.

Office accommodation for the personnel staffing the ambulance is now provided by the County Council at the Mercread Road Ambulance Depot. In previous years the ambulance staff has been provided with office accommodation in the Municipal Buildings, by arrangement with the Urban District Council.

The East Sussex County Council provides facilities for the transport of tuberculosis cases.





### Nursing in the Home

As in previous years, the East Sussex County Council, as empowered by Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, has arranged for this service to be provided by the East Sussex County Nursing Association through the District Nursing Associations.

### Hospitals

Under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Ministry of Health is responsible for the provision of hospital accommodation. The accommodation in the area remains materially the same as it was prior to the passing of the Act.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres

Treatment centres have been provided as previously and an immunisation clinic has been held on the first Thursday of each month at the Simmons Institute, Crouch Lane. This has proved very successful and was well attended.

### Provision for the Care of Mental Defectives

The East Sussex County Council administers the Lunacy and Mental Deficiency Services in respect of patients outside Institutions. All institutional care is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board.



### SECTION III

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

##### 1. Staff

During the year under review the staff of the department consisted of the Sanitary Inspector, one clerical assistant and one part-time Rodent Operator.

##### 2. Rehousing

At the 1st January 1954 the Housing Waiting List consisted of 269 applicants. This does not include 34 families in temporary accommodation such as requisitioned premises and huts or 10 families in pre-fabricated bungalows.

During the year 53 new applications were received.

The number of families from the waiting list rehoused in either permanent or requisitioned premises was 19.

The Council continued their policy of a gradual reduction in the number of requisitioned premises and during the year de-requisitioned 12 properties, thus necessitating the rehousing in permanent or other requisitioned premises of 17 families.

In addition to the movement of families as shown above, it was necessary, for various reasons, to transfer 8 families from one property to another.

176 applicants were removed from the list, mainly as a result of a questionnaire issued during the year.

At the 31st December 1954, the waiting list consisted of 127 applicants, which did not include the 17 families in temporary accommodation or the 10 families in pre-fabricated bungalows.

The department's work in connection with rehousing includes the receipt of applications, pointing up under the Council's scheme and the continuous revision involved. It also includes the preparation of lists of applications for the attention of the Housing Selection Sub-committee, and the keeping of all records.

This involved 561 interviews; 764 letters and 7 inspections.

Applicants are naturally anxious to know their position on the waiting list from time to time, especially when many months have elapsed since application was first made, although there are quite a number who





despite being told of the housing position, think that they should have accommodation within a matter of a week or so from their first application.

Whereas the applicants can only view the matter from their own particular need and think their case to be one of urgent necessity, this may not necessarily be so when the whole of such cases are under review.

### 3. Rodent Control

Survey and action, as necessary, in connection with rodent control was continued during the year, and for this purpose a part-time Rodent Operator was employed four hours each day for six days per week, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

As in previous years, free service to private dwelling houses was in operation and again proved successful. Generally, the co-operation of occupiers was a great factor in achieving results.

620 visits were made and 525 properties inspected of which 102 were found to be infested.

From time to time the Council's sewers were inspected at various points and no evidence of rats was found.

The Council's house refuse dumps were examined periodically and action taken when found to be necessary.

### 4. Petroleum

Sixteen licences were issued for the storage of petroleum for the year. One new installation was set up during the period under review.

Thirty-nine inspections were made in this connection.

### 5. Milk.

At the 1st January 1954 there were 5 Purveyors of milk in the Urban District.

The following licences for the sale of graded milks were issued:-

6 Pasteurised (sale only)  
5 Tuberculin Tested  
3 Sterilised.

All premises were kept in a clean condition and were limewashed or cleansed as necessary.

### 6. Fried Fish Shops

From time to time the two Fried Fish Shops were inspected and were found to be kept in a clean condition. No complaints of alleged nuisance were received.



7. Bakehouses

The two bakehouses were inspected periodically and at all times were found to be kept in a clean condition. The necessary limewashing or cleansing was carried out at the required times.

8. Food

(1) The number of food premises, by type of business:-

2 Bakehouses.	4 Fish Shops.
7 Butchers.	2 Fried Fish Shops.
5 Dairies and Milkshops.	40 Ice-cream
12 Grocers	4 Hotels.
17 Restaurants.	

(2) The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, and number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:-

40 Sale of ice-cream
3 Butchers.
1 Grocer.
5 Dairies and Milkshops.

(3) The number of inspections of (2) above and comments thereon:-

<u>Premises for Sale of Ice-cream</u>	Number of inspections 83.
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With three exceptions these premises sell pre-wrapped ice-cream and one establishment only manufactures. In all cases the premises and conditions are satisfactory and the manufacture at the one establishment is in accordance with the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations 1947-1952.

<u>Butchers Premises.</u>	Number of inspections 12.	The making of sausages and pickling of meats is carried out under satisfactory conditions.
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<u>Grocers Premises.</u>	Inspections 12.	The boiling of hams.
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The rooms where the boiling is carried out are kept in a clean condition, periodically painted and the utensils kept in good condition.

<u>Dairies &amp; Milkshops.</u>	Inspections 20.	These premises are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition, and cleansed, whitewashed or painted at the required periods.
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(4) Whilst no organised educational activity is carried out, every opportunity is taken, when inspecting premises where food is prepared, to emphasize the importance of food hygiene.





(5) Where condemned food is of salvage value, it is disposed of to firms concerned in this type of treatment or manufacture. Other classes of food are collected and destroyed at the Council's tip.

(6) A special examination of stocks of a particular brand of tinned cream was found necessary, the result proved that this area was free of this commodity. Only small amounts of food have had to be condemned, generally speaking through damage in transit, defective tins, bad handling etc.

#### Blown and Defective tins

3 tins (18 lbs) Corned Beef.  
3 tins (45 lbs.2 ozs) Ham.  
2 tins ( 8 lbs) Pork Luncheon Meat.  
1 tin ( 4 lbs) Luncheon Meat.  
9 tins Evaporated Milk.  
2 tins Baked Beans.  
2 tins Plums.  
1 tin Grapefruit sections.  
1 tin Carrots.  
1 tin Shrimps.  
2 tins Apples.  
1 tin (8 lbs) Prawns.  
4 tins Orange slices.

#### Decomposition

3 stone Kippers.  
10 lbs. Salmon.  
14 lbs. Smoked Cod.

#### Body heat

48 lbs. Beef

#### Bone taint

14 $\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Beef.

#### Broken jars

1 - 10 ozs jar Sweet Pickle.  
1 lb. jar Honey.  
1 lb. jar Marmalade.  
1 lb. jar Apricots.

#### Sour

1 lb.13 ozs Salame.

#### Out of condition

4 lbs. Cheese.

#### Deterioration,consolidation and sugaring

23 tins Full Cream Sweetened Milk.



## Housing

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year

- (1)(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.) ... 92
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. . 107
- (2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932. ... 87
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose. . 102
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found defective:-
- (a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ... Nil
- (b) Number (excluding those in sub-heading (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... 6

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. ... 6

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

#### A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 Housing Act, 1936

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. ... 1
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices. ...
- (a) By owners. .... 1
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. .... Nil
- (3) Number of dwelling houses acquired and subsequently rendered fit by the Local Authority. .... Nil

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. .... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:-
- (a) By owners. .... Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. ... Nil

#### C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. .... Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. .. Nil





D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. ..  | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. .    | Nil |
| (3) Number of separate tenements in respect of which Undertakings given by the owner in previous year, not to be used for human habitation, now rendered fit. | 1   |

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. . . . .  | Nil |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein. ....   | Nil |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein. ....   | Nil |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year.   | Nil |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. ....   | Nil |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases. ..   | Nil |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. .... | Nil |
| (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report. ....                              | Nil |

10. Caravans

The licenced caravan site again proved very popular during the season and was run in a very satisfactory manner. The site was visited frequently and at all times was found to be in a clean condition and the terms of the licence adhered to.

11. Coelopa Frigida

In common with other seaside towns on the south coast, our beaches, parade, certain shops and even the main shopping centre became unpleasant by reason of the vast numbers of coelopa frigida or seaweed fly.

This matter called for a good deal of attention and investigation. The 23 acres of beaches were sprayed with a Dieldrin solution. This did not prove efficacious after the first application on parts of the beaches but eventually after the second treatment the result appears to be satisfactory inasmuch that later in the season, although a few flies were apparent no live pupa were found on the beaches.



## 12. Brown-tail Moth caterpillars

In May 1954 there was an infestation in certain parts of the district of the Brown-tail Moth caterpillar. Whereas in the area around the Cuckmere no nuisance occurred by reason of lack of habitations, the infestation around the Bishopstone area caused some annoyance by the invasion of these caterpillars into the gardens. It became apparent that unless some action was taken these insects would invade the houses. This in itself was undesirable but the fact that these caterpillars cause in some cases a dermatitis if handled, demanded preventative treatment. Therefore the gardens were sprayed with a BHC/DDT solution and the hedgerows etc., over a large area, where the "tents" were seen, were either given the same treatment or where possible destroyed by flamethrower. After treatment for six days the situation was well under control.

## 13. Inspections

	<u>Primary Inspections</u>	<u>Re- Inspections</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
Housing. . . . .	92	15	107
Dairies. . . . .	5	15	20
Food shops and restaurants. Including sale of ice-cream premises. . . . .	59	48	107
Food Condemnation. . . . .	24	-	24
Drainage - Nuisance. . . . .	9	6	15
Drainage - New buildings and alterations. . . . .	68	94	162
Disinfections - Infectious Diseases. . . . .	2	2	4
Disinfections - On request. . . . .	11	11	22
Inspections - Miscellaneous * . . . .	23	36	59
Piggeries. . . . .	3	3	6
Dumps. . . . .	1	1	2
Rodent Control. . . . .	525	95	620
Bakehouses. . . . .	2	4	6
Petroleum. . . . .	16	23	39
Dustbins. . . . .	1	1	2
Factory Inspections. . . . .	31	7	38
Fried Fish Shops. . . . .	2	4	6
Public Conveniences. . . . .	15	15	30
Rehousing Inspections. . . . .	7	-	7
Caravan Site. . . . .	1	14	15
Caravans and Camps. . . . .	1	1	2
Water Closets. . . . .	3	2	5
	<u>901</u>	<u>397</u>	<u>1298</u>

\* Included in the Miscellaneous Inspections are inspections of Pets Shop, complaints and inspections in connection with beach flies, caterpillars, keeping of chicken, sale of heating appliances, and smells etc.





14. Action Taken

The following action was taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and housing defects:-

Number of nuisances and housing defects. ... ..	20
Number where works were carried out as a result of Informal Action, including one outstanding from last year.	21
Number of Statutory Notices served. ... ..	1
Number of Statutory Notices complied with. ... ..	1

15. Factories Act, 1937

In the Urban District there are four factories on the register in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 of the above Act are enforced and 27 factories in which Section 7 only is enforced. During 1954, 38 inspections were carried out. Details are as follows:-

Part I of the Act

Inspections made for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	8	Nil	Nil
(ii)Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	27	30	Nil	Nil
(iii)Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL:	31	38	Nil	Nil

In one case where a sanitary convenience was found to be defective the defect was remedied.



Part VIII of the Act

The position relating to outwork is as follows:-

Section 110			Section III		
No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in un-wholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions
1 wearing apparel (knitwear)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

General

General letters, reports, returns. etc.	358
Conferences with Chairmen of Committees and Officers of the Council as necessary from time to time.	181
Meetings and Conferences attended.	47

J.E.L.Smith.  
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
Sanitary Inspector.





## SECTION IV

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### Infectious Diseases

In all, 29 cases of infectious disease were notified in Seaford in 1954. The details were as follows:-

Disease	Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Whooping Cough	15	-	-
Pneumonia	5	-	-
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-
Measles	2	1	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
	29	1	-

#### Whooping Cough

Only fifteen cases of whooping cough were notified in Seaford during the year under review, representing 51.7 per cent of all the notifications of infectious disease received during the year. None of these cases were of sufficient severity to merit admission to hospital.

Since 1st April of the year under review a combined vaccine which offers protection against both diphtheria and whooping cough has been made available in the urban district. This is mostly given to children under a year old and no doubt its efficacy will be amply demonstrated in the years to come. The greatest danger from whooping cough occurs when it is contracted by a young child and by providing protection against the disease for such infants a major source of danger will be minimised.

#### Pneumonia

Five cases of pneumonia were notified during 1954, one less than in the preceding year. None of the cases were sufficiently serious to require admission to hospital and all cases made satisfactory recoveries.



### Scarlet Fever

Four cases of scarlet fever were notified in the Urban District during the year under review, none of which necessitated admission to hospital. Only twenty-two cases of scarlet fever have been notified in Seaford during the five-year period 1950-1954, which gives the extremely low average annual incidence of 4.4 cases for the whole district.

It is very important that the disease should be recognised and the patient segregated as early as possible as the period of infectivity begins very early in the attack. The patient should be isolated, contacts excluded from school and in particular infected persons and recent contacts should be precluded from handling milk and milk products.

### Measles

Only two cases of measles were notified in Seaford during 1954, a vastly different figure from the total of 420 cases notified in the area during 1953. One of the two cases was admitted to hospital, not owing to the severity of the infection but because he was a temporary inmate of a holiday camp. He made a rapid and uneventful recovery.

It is usually children under seven years of age who contract measles and it is the complications and residual effects of the illness which are more to be feared than the disease itself. Broncho-pneumonia as a complication, and damage to the patients's ears or eyes as a residual effect are now nearly always avoided by the use of penicillin and the sulpha drugs.

### Erysipelas

Two cases of erysipelas were notified in the area during 1954, neither of which was sufficiently serious to merit admission to hospital.

### Puerperal Pyrexia

One case of puerperal pyrexia was notified during 1954. For a number of years considerable efforts have been made throughout the country to lessen the incidence of this feverish condition amongst women after childbirth and the Puerperal Pyrexia (Amendment) Regulations, 1954, came into force on the 1st March, 1954 and enacted that, in addition to the information already required, any doctor notifying a case of puerperal pyrexia should also state the cause of the illness, if known. It is no doubt hoped that from the additional information thus gained it will be possible to devise means of further reducing the incidence of the illness.





## General

Just over half of the total number of cases of infectious disease notified in Seaford during 1954 were of whooping cough.

It is in years as these, when no measles epidemic occurs, that the magnitude of the problem of whooping cough shows up in its true perspective, and one looks forward with pleasurable anticipation to the time when the widespread use of whooping cough vaccine has reduced the incidence of the disease to a minimum. It is unfortunate that at present we seem to be no nearer to obtaining a similar vaccine or other preventive agent to ward off measles. One can only hope that in time, too, this problem will be solved.



SECTION V  
TUBERCULOSIS

In 1954, Seaford had eighteen new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and two new non-pulmonary cases. There was only one death from pulmonary tuberculosis and no death occurred from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Details are given in the following table:-

AGE PERIODS	1954 NEW CASES AND MORTALITY							
	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
20	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Upwards	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
TOTAL:	10	8	1	1	1	-	-	-

Eleven of the new cases notified were people who were already suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis when they moved into Seaford from other areas.

The incidence of the 18 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1954 is 1.71 per 1,000 population.

The single death due to pulmonary tuberculosis which occurred in the Urban District during 1954 shows a rate of 0.09 per 1,000 population.





It is encouraging to note that the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis is once again at a very low level. This is particularly gratifying when it is realised that the effect of recent advances in methods of prevention and treatment of the disease is hardly yet beginning to be evident.

The treatment with B.C.G. vaccine of those classes of the community most exposed to the possibility of tuberculosis infection has only been carried out during recent years and it will probably be some time before the statistical effect of the innovation and any reduction brought about in the tuberculosis death rate will become apparent.

As with most innovations, there has been apprehension on the part of some that the vaccine might be detrimental to those vaccinated, but the great value of this form of protection has now been proved. Although B.C.G., does not guarantee complete protection against tuberculosis, it is certainly the best form of protection so far introduced and cannot harm the person vaccinated.



# CLIMATE

The following meteorological statistics were recorded at Seaford during the year 1954:-

<u>Month</u>	<u>Temperature</u>			<u>Rainfall</u>		<u>Sunshine</u>		<u>No. of Sunny Days</u>
	<u>Mean</u> °	<u>Max</u> °	<u>Min</u> °	<u>Total</u> <u>Ins</u>	<u>Heaviest</u> <u>Inches</u>	<u>Average</u> <u>Hours</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Hours</u>	
January	37.7	52	19	1.13	.42	2.82	87.3	21
February	37.8	50	<u>18</u>	2.60	.58	1.98	55.5	12
March	44.3	58	29	3.81	.70	3.91	121.3	21
April	44.3	59	31	.46	.27	<u>7.61</u>	228.4	27
May	53.2	<u>76</u>	36	1.59	.48	6.37	197.4	28
June	56.2	68	42	1.95	.43	5.83	175.1	25
July	58.6	72	44	4.42	<u>1.46</u>	5.62	174.0	26
August	59.8	75	45	3.92	1.10	6.23	193.0	29
September	57.3	74	39	3.52	.73	5.19	155.6	26
October	55.5	66	32	2.54	.46	3.27	101.4	22
November	47.4	63	29	<u>5.05</u>	1.12	2.4	72.1	17
December	45.8	55	27	2.23	.58	1.52	47.0	12
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	49.8			33.22		4.4	1608.1	266
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While it must be admitted that climatic conditions in Seaford during 1954, in common with the rest of the country, were rather below standard, it can be noted that 266 sunny days were recorded - one more than in 1953.

The best of the weather, at least from the holiday-makers point of view, was during the early part of the year. The highest total number of hours sunshine was registered in April, instead of in June as in 1953, and the maximum temperature was recorded in May, the previous year's highest temperature having been recorded in August.

